

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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R 242252Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: LOURENCO MARQUES, SAR, AND US CHROME ORE SUPPLY
CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

REFERENCES: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 267; (B) PRETORIA 854;
(C) LOURENCO MARQUES 279

1. REFTELS DETAIL SEVERAL DECISIONS TAKEN ON PART OF SAR
TO AID MOZAMBIQUE RAILWAYS AND EASE PORT BOTTLENECK AT
LOURENCO MARQUES. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY US CHROME IMPOR-
TERS FOR ANY INFORMATION POSTSMAY HAVE ON WHETHER SPECIFIC
ACTIONS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN TAKEN OR ANY TIMETABLES ESTAB-
LISHED IN FOLLOWING AREAS:

(A) LAYING OF NEW TRACKS AND TURN-OUTS FROM KOMATIPOORT TO
LOURENCO MARQUES;

(B) REPAIRING OF EXISTING RAIL TRACKS;

(C) IMPROVEMENT OF SIGNALLING AND REPAIR FACILITIES;

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(D) PROVISION BY SOUTH AFRICA OF SEVEN DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES

OR ANY ROLLING STOCK;
(E) EQUIPPING OF TRAINS WITH RADIOS IN LIEU OF CURRENT
SIGNALLING SYSTEMS.

2. US COMPANY REPORTS THAT SOME SOUTH AFRICAN NON-CHROME
EXPORTS ARE NOW BEING DIVERTED TO DURBAN TO EASE CONGESTION
AT LOURENCO MARQUES. IF SO, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO
AS TO WHAT MATERIALS ARE INVOLVED.

3. ACCORDING TO DIAMOND SHAMROCK, RAIL ALLOCATIONS FOR
CHROME ORE HAVE BEEN SET AT 100 RAIL TRUCKS A DAY. HAVE
THERE BEEN ANY INDICATIONS THAT THE CURRENT RAIL ALLOCA-
TION FOR CHROME WILL IMPROVE? IF SO, BY WHAT AMOUNT?

4. HAS ANY ACTION BEEN TAKEN ON COMPROMISE AGREEMENT WITH
SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME EXPORTERS (REF C) WHICH WOULD PERMIT
70 PERCENT OF CHROME SHIPMENTS TO GO TO MEET SPECIFIC
REQUIREMENTS OF SHIPS WAITING IN LOURENCO MARQUES? IF
ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN, HAVE ANY VISIBLE EFFECTS BEEN

PRODUCED? DECONTROL ON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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